



**Governor's STEM Advisory Council
Regional STEM Network Hub
Application**

April 6, 2012

Northwest Region

Northwest Iowa STEM Initiative

Name of proposed requesting entity (or entries as partners):

NW Iowa STEM Initiative

Name and title of primary contact:

Rita Frahm

Primary contact address:

101 N Main Street

Primary contact city/state/zip:

Holstein IA 51025

Primary contact office telephone:

712.371.9438

Primary contact email address:

ritafrahm@heritageiowa.com

Region:

Northwest

Proposed Location:

The proposed location for this northwestern Iowa hub is 107 Main Street Holstein. This location would be relatively geographically centered within the quadrant identified by the STEM council. The facility is designed to have wireless accessibility, a couple offices, video conferencing technology and room to hold training sessions.

Identify Your Mission:

Northwest AEA and Ida County Economic Development each have identified the priority for STEM learning within our region. Each partner brings strengths in different networks that will significantly impact the STEM learning opportunities in our region.

Identify Support:

Northwest AEA is working with us to assist in the funding of the proposed administrator of our hub, Jim Christensen. Ida County Economic Development will provide in kind services from our Director, Rita Frahm. We also have significantly lower overhead for the building space due to co-location with Ida County Economic Development.

Participating Organizations:

We have support for the regional council from the following:

Northwest AEA, Tim Grieves

WITCC, Dan Wubbena

Rob Hach, Wind Anemometry Specialists (SBA Business of the Year, Wind Industry Specialists)

Delayne Johnson, Quad County Corn Processors (Research & Development in advanced biofuel technology)

ISU, Dr. Mark Edelman

Ridge View School Board Member, Randy Hustedt

STEM Teacher, Stacy Rohlk OA-BCIG

Regional Workforce Development, Jeff Simonsen
Mark Buschcamp, Northwest Iowa Developers (regional economic development organization)
Rita Frahm, Ida County Economic Development & Western Iowa Advantage & RWIB Board Member
Region 12(regional economic development)
Buena Vista University, Dr. Melinda Coogan
Local Government Official, Todd Vohs (IT background & business owner)
ISU Extension, Sherry McGill
Library, Bonnie Barkema

Funding Assistance:

We will work with our existing networks of businesses and project based grant opportunities to assist with our on-going sustainability. With our proposed model the collaboration with NW AEA will provide 50% of the salary for Jim Christensen. Given that there is significantly lower overhead we can be extremely effective on leveraging assistance resources.

Additional Information:

We have been dedicating our time and resources to STEM education already through existing channels. These efforts have successfully engaged students on a national and international level. We have also held business & education workshops that have outlined priorities of both entities that will be very helpful in moving our efforts forward. Drawing upon the established network of educational delivery and the innovation of our businesses, we believe we can move forward collectively.

Subject Matter Expertise:

Jim Christensen is recognized nationally for his STEM expertise and ability to access international networks of space related education opportunities. He carries the educational experience and existing contacts within all of our school districts in northwest Iowa. His participation is critical to the success of this hub. We also have existing network connections with our regional businesses through our economic development partners. Our region already has a large renewable energy base with wind and bio-based industry. These partners are willing to dedicate resources and their time to this effort. We also have a long standing advanced manufacturing base that are also willing participants in this on-going effort in our region.

Additional Considerations:

We hope that the innovation of bringing our economic development, non profit and educators together in a new model will be our greatest strength. Our assets are the successful businesses, dedicated educators and ability to move at the speed needed to effect change.